

Human Security and Practices of Empowerment in East Asia Project ends the year with the 4th Authors' Workshop

The Human Security and Practices of Empowerment in East Asia Research Project members held their 4th Authors' Workshop last December 11, 2021. Twelve participants from six countries attended the workshop, including the project advisors, Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony of Nanyang Technological University, Prof. Yoichi Mine of Doshisha University, and Prof. Sachiko Ishikawa of Ritsumeikan University; participating researchers: Dr. Arisman from the Center of South-East Asian Studies (Indonesia), Dr. Vu Le Thao Chi of Keio University (Japan), Dr. Jonatan Lassa of Charles Darwin University (Australia), Dr. Surangrut Jumnianpol of Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), and Dr. Lourdes Rallonza of Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines); and the project team members: Ms. Ako Muto, Dr. Lisette Robles, Mr. Kaito Takeuchi, and Ms. Chihiro Toya from JICA Ogata Research Institute. Finally, Dr. Maria Tanyag of Australia National University sent her a summary of her research progress.

This online workshop was an opportunity to share updates about case-specific (Level 2) analyses of eight different but interconnected human security issues -- health security, food security, gender, economic security, aging society, environment, forced migration, and peace and justice. At this project level, researchers focused on the human-centered analysis to explore the concept of 'empowerment' in specific human security issues. Before this, each researcher provided a country-level analysis discussing the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable individuals/groups and the 'protection' strategies provided by state actors.

Each researcher updated everyone with their level 2 analysis progress, sharing their research methods, data collection, and analysis. Participants exchanged ideas and experiences of using alternative methods for data collection and safety protocols for fieldwork in response to limitations and challenges of gathering data due to the continuous spread of COVID-19. They also discussed the intersection of vulnerability and the concept of empowerment under the particular conditions of vulnerable people during the pandemic of COVID-19. Despite the need for protection, researchers observed various elements of empowerment through their data gathering and analyses.

At the end of the workshop, advisors gave comments and feedback by reflecting on all presentations. Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony challenges the authors to exhaust the whole thrust of human security and expound on empowerment in their study and the other related concepts. Professor Mine looks forward to this full-scale research on empowerment in human security, which is also the unique feature of the whole

project. Participants agreed with the necessity to fully explore the concept of empowerment in Human Security through the second phase.

Finally, the project team members of JICA Ogata Research Institute shared three research activities completed this year, such as the **1st Time Seminar in September**, participation in IHSA 2021 in November, and publication of Working Reports on the JICA's website.

Although the workshop was held online, advisors, researchers, and project members successfully shared their research progresses, including challenges and dilemmas in the process of data gathering, and exchanged their insights for further Level 2 analysis. Participating researchers will continue to gather data and analyze them to discuss the empowerment of vulnerable people under the COVID-19 crisis. This will commence with their specific writing contribution to this project.



Participants of the 4th Authors' workshop, including the project advisors, researchers, and the JICA Ogata RI project team
(From Zoom, December 11, 2021)